NINETEENTH

ANNUAL ADDRESS

AND REPORT

—TO THE—

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE,

—BY—

A. S. HALLIDIE, President.

Delivered at their Rooms, June 5th, 1875.

SAN FRANCISCO:
Printed at the "Mining and Scientific Press" Office,
414 Clay Street.

1875.

THE

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE,

ORGANIZED MARCH 29, 1855.

Incorporated Dec. 6, 1869.

BUILDING OF THE ASSOCIATION, No. 27 POST ST.

Library Hours, 9 A. M. to 10 P. M.

Terms of Membership:

Initiation Fee, on entering,	$1.00.
Quarterly Dues, in advance,	1.50.
Life Membership,	50.00.

(Entitling the person to all the privileges of Membership.)

OFFICERS--1875.

A. S. HALLIDIE, President.
P. B. CORNWALL, Vice-President.
H. L. DAVIS, Treasurer.
J. C. PATRICK, Recording Secretary.
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ADDRESS.

To the members of the Mechanics' Institute.

Once more the time has come that calls the annual address and report from the President of the Mechanics' Institute, and in looking over the past twelve months, with some degree of satisfaction, we see that the industrial condition of the City and State has still moved onward in the march of progress.

New branches of manufactures and industry are being added to those we already possess, and there are signs of encouragement and success in the various departments of the Mechanic Arts.

While our brethren in the East have been suffering from stagnation in business and want of confidence in new enterprises, we in California have moved steadily on, unaffected by the depressions of the times, but with perfect confidence in the substantial prosperity of our own western home, and in spite of vast efforts at concentration and consolidation, the energy of body and mind in the fresh climate of California, bursting the bounds of restriction to personal action and freedom, negative the attempts to hamper trade on the one hand or to degrade labor on the other.

The prosperity of past years in the departments of Agriculture and Mining, and their prospective prosperity, have given such an impetus to all species of industry, that the excuse for idleness or serious individual misfortune to a healthy man seems too remote to receive credence, and it would appear as if the field for legitimate enterprise, was large enough and certain enough, to induce the better class of citizens to enter, and in the youth of this growing city to establish themselves in honorable business, laying the foundation for independence and prosperity, that cannot fail to grow and increase in time, with the exercise of ordinary

business honesty and faithfulness, rather than fall victims to the fascinations of stock gambling, and consequent loss of business perception and discretion.

A country to be truly prosperous, should have a people industrious and intelligently honest, with a true regard for the right of others; and for happiness there must be a fair distribution of the good things of the earth; great individual wealth always accompanies great collective poverty, and the happiest people, is the people of few wants, and of a well distributed wealth—while the most miserable are the many poor and the few rich.

While many important measures cannot be carried out by individuals, and require that concentration of capital that marks the organization of great corporations; yet such corporations unless conscientiously managed by good citizens, do not tend to develop individuality either in merchant, manufacturer, or citizen, but has the effect rather of discouraging the efforts of more humble persons in the departments of trade or the arts, but it behoves all concerned, especially an Institute like this, to encourage and assist the efforts of the individual, as well as the corporation, in developing any new manufacture or industry, as much as should be jealously guarded, any illegitimate encroachment on the rights, integrity or liberty of the people by either.

I believe the Mechanics' Institute should extend its active work beyond its present limit (a limit however that has been marked by necessity) to a Bureau of Industrial Facts, where the positive condition of the industry of the City or State is a matter of record. The statistics or data gathered through this source would be of infinite value in determining the progress made from time to time, and what is of more value still, it would enable the new comer to ascertain whether his speciality is overcrowded or not.

There cannot be too much light on such matters, and the clear evidence of unadorned facts would tend more to encourage new enterprises than anything else could. And again, greater encouragement should be given to youths to enter shops and learn trades, so that in early life industrious habits may be inculcated, and an unfailing capital furnished not subject to the fluctuations of the monetary market.

It has been stated that there is a dearth of first class workmen in the various branches of industry, and taking the negative evidence of the superabundance of clerks, book-keepers, and young men who fear soiling their hands or honestly exerting their brain or muscle, this statement seems to have considerable foundation in fact.

Who degrades labor more than he who avoids it? As society tabooes a person by coldly ignoring him, so intelligent labor is degraded by being avoided, and the mistake is in this very effort to avoid the opportunity we may have to make the ordinary burdens of life lighter, and the pleasure of living happily, which is lost by the first great error of trying to get along without rendering to our fellow men our share of the duties of life; and any man or woman in good health, who does not believe that he or she should at least render an equivalent to the human race for their existence, and for what they eat and drink and wear, is unworthy a place on the earth's surface, and live in violation of the laws of God and man.

But all the lecturing and preaching in the world will have no effect, unless those who have the power to influence, guide and control, will take the responsibility of so managing these affairs as to bring about the desired results; the true source of this guidance is of course the home, and all the state laws, city ordinances, and inducements of educational schools, are of little avail if this is lacking; but in the absence of this however, the latter are essential, and may supplement to some extent that need.

The matter of trade tuition is one involving the deepest interests of the people, and my own observation is that it opens up a broad field of prolific soil, which if properly tilled and carefully harvested, will yield a good crop. The experience and results in this important branch of political economy have been varied and will vary with the influences of surroundings and the temperament of the people; but there can be no greater benevolence, and no greater patriotism, than to train up a generation of youths instilled in the principles of true industry, and with a knowledge of the law and practice of mechanics and the physical sciences.

How far this Society can aid in furthering such a project, depends on the spirit of the members and the faithfulness and unselfishness of your officers; but it would seem as if it must be an efficient ally and a firm friend.

As a representative society of some influence in the community in which it exists, the Mechanics' Institute owes to itself and to its record, a true regard for, and care of all that relates to the interests of the Mechanic Arts and the Economic Industries.

It is with this view that you have struggled on in the battle of life, and slowly toiling up the hill, have gradually gathered together by economy and industry, and in an honest way, all that you posess and have around you.

Individual responsibilities have had to step in occasionally, and assume the position a person does when he endorses a note for a friend; and good faith, unanimity, and co-operation, have placed us where we no longer feel the pinch of want, or wear the badge of poverty, and while we have been accumulating valuable books, and many other things desirable—*especially friends*—for the first time in many years, the financial report shows that we no longer owe our worthy Treasurer that everlasting balance that never would disappear, and that we are in a fair way to soon pay off the tail end of the old mortgage.

Meantime this Society is growing beyond the capacity of this building, and steps should be taken at an early date to secure a suitable lot on which to construct a building adapted to the needs of the Society.

The present building is not now such as we need, and for sometime past the Trustees have been at a loss how best to adapt it temporarily to the present needs.

The shelves are all full, and many of them have two rows of books, while the closets and lockers are crowded, and many valuable works are stowed away in the basement.

There are specimens enough in the building to form the nucleus of a good museum, but there is no room for a museum.

The books, including the Patent Reports that are coming, will be here probably by November, and the Librarian is at a loss where to put

them. The present reading-room can be made available for library purposes, and would answer the purpose very well; that room would be almost immediately filled with the books we have on hand and those that are coming. The difficulty is to find a suitable place for the reading-room—if the lower hall is used for that purpose, it will be at the sacrifice of the revenue we derive from the rent of the same. The third floor is out of the question, as very few persons like to walk up so many stairs to read the papers. Hence the necessity of looking for new quarters. It has been suggested that the present building be not sold, but made suitable for renting to best advantage, and retained for revenue, and that the new building be constructed simply for the use of the Institute.

This will undoubtedly be the better course, if it can be accomplished, but it involves pecuniary considerations, that depend largely upon the financial success of the forthcoming Fairs, and the amount that can be turned into the Treasury by the Managers.

I doubt not the Trustees and members will give this matter careful consideration and provide some means to secure the end desired.

Preparations for the Tenth Industrial Fair are being energetically pushed, and very great interest is evinced by all concerned.

The Board of Managers, from the leasing of the ground, and signing of the contract for the construction of the building, to the last loan of $8,000, advanced on the joint note of the members for the furthering of the work, have been compelled to assume personal responsibilities, that could only be justified by perfect confidence in each other and the success of their efforts.

It is well known to the members of the Mechanics' Institute, that the Fairs are carried on by a distinct organization, working solely for the interests of this society, and while the Mechanics' Institute would in no way be liable for losses in the event of failure, the Managers pass to the credit of the Institute whatever may be the gains. That the good-will and hearty co-operation of every member and friend of the Mechanics' Institute is to be relied on, cannot be doubted, and with that, the success of the forthcoming Fair may be assured.

The Exhibition Building has been enlarged by the addition of a Horticultural Garden, 70 feet wide by 220 feet long; the grounds have been improved by sowing grass, planting trees and laying out walks.

The frame of the building is completed, and when the Exhibition opens, a canvass roof will be spread over the arches, that are fifty-five feet high, to protect visitors from exposure to the air.

The report of the Managers of the Ninth Industrial Fair has been before you for some time, and will be found on the tables to-night.

It will be seen that that Exhibition was open forty-one days; that about 700,000 persons visited it during that term, and that the receipts from the Fair aggregated $84,684.26.

The running expenses, after the Fair opened, amounted to $27,-657.55. The cost of the building was $77,379.03, and fitting up the same, $28,951.58.

This year the managers will start in with a debt of about $70,000; hence it is essential that no effort should be spared to wipe off this debt; to do which will require an income of $100,000 from the next Exhibition.

Applications for space are coming in rapidly, and at this time about 50,000 feet of floor-room has been applied for, besides 2,704 feet of wall room. A great many special features are being prepared for the Fair, and many new industries will be there on exhibition, and in operation. There are a number of applications from Eastern manufacturers, and some of them will undoubtedly put our engine and machine builders to their best efforts.

By the addition of the Horticultural Garden the available floor area has been increased about 20,000 feet. This department will be under the direct charge of the Managers.

It is not expectcd that a Fair will be held in San Francisco next year, as that will be the year of the great Centennial Exhibition, to be held in the city of Philadelphia—and towards the success of which it is to be hoped California will make a practical and tangible move, and the Managers of the forthcoming Fair are willing and ready to co-operate in any way to that end.

From the reports of the various committees the condition of the Institute is good and improving.

The Committee on Library, Rooms, and Building, again draw the attention of the Board to the necessity of providing more shelf-room for the books in the Library. It is obvious that some arrangements will have to be made at a very early date to meet this demand. No alterations or extensive repairs have been made during the past year, but the Committee report that some painting and repairing will, however, soon be required. The portion of the building rented brings in a monthly revenue of $802.50. The committee has approved bills to the amount of $985.95.

The Committee on Ways, Means and Accounts report the finances of the Society in a healthy condition, and that they have audited during the year bills to the amount of $13,915.31, in addition to $1,701.10 ordered paid by the Board for interest, and to the sinking fund.

The Committee on Books and Donations report that the need of a catalogue is very pressing, and in view of this great need they have followed up the work of preparation already made by their predecessors, and although it is not possible to say when the labor will be finished, in view of the many works now ordered and on the way, and which it is desirable should be added to the catalogue; yet the committee give every assurance that it will be pushed to an early completion.

During the year 1,743 volumns have been added to the Library by purchase, classified as follows:

Science and Art	380
Fiction	803
General Literature and Essays	178
Biography	64
History	100
Poetry and Drama	79
Travels	48
Law and Political Economy	6
Theology and Religion	23
Encyclopedia and Dictionary	18
Philosophy	20
Sundries	24
Total,	1,743

Two hundred and fourteen volumns and pamphlets have been donated to the Library, among which were 104 volumns by the Hon. A. A. Sargent, and 20 volumns *Sacramento Union* by Lewis Teese, Jr.

I was instructed to purchase some valuable technical works—English, French and German—while in Europe recently; also, to attend to the matter of the British Patent Reports.

Books of all kinds, of value as standard works, especially sets running back ten to twenty years, have increased in value enormously during the past three years, and will continue to increase on account of the growing demand and diminishing number of such standard technical works, and many works that might be purchased at this time, in a few years cannot be obtained at all.

It is a great pity that you have not more funds at your disposal for the use of this Committee, so as to make your library complete in this class of books.

There are about 1,000 volumes of exceedingly valuable works of reference on the way; in addition to the Patent Reports of Great Britain, 3,300 volumes, that are probably all bound by this time and ready to ship. These important reports, the gift of the British government to the Mechanics' Institute, are being uniformly bound at an expense of about $5,000, and will present a fine appearance on the shelves of your Library.

As there are but three complete sets left in the posession of the Commissioners, the value of this large donation can be appreciated, especially as it carries with it all future issues and publications by the Patent Office

The reference Library is rapidly becoming a point of attraction to all scientific men on the Pacific Coast, and our pride should be to make it complete in all details.

Towards this end, as reported by me last year, Mr. Lick promises you the sum of $10,000.

The total number of volumes now on the shelves of the Library is 21,542, besides which are those above mentioned, amounting to about 4,500 volumes.

This Committee also refers to the necessity of more shelf room, and report that all the spare lockers and closets are full, and the books in many shelves are two deep.

The Institute still receives accessions to its number of members, and during the year 599 members have been added to the roll.

The present number of members in good standing is 1,476.

There is no report from the Committee on Lectures and Classes, but I have to report that the usual Winter Course of Lectures has been delivered in conjunction with the University of California, and that they were well attended and eagerly listened to.

I believe it would be more profitable to the Institute, if closer attention was paid to this department, and I would respectfully suggest that among so many members, there certainly must be sufficient, who desire to follow a certain line of study, to organize a class, and that when such is the case if they will report, the Board will provide means to carry out their wishes.

The financial condition of the society for the year ending May 31, 1875, is as follows:

INSTITUTE FUND.

RECEIPTS.

Rents	8,914.49	
Dues, Membership, etc.	$8,464.50	
Total		$17,378.99

DISBURSEMENTS.

Insurance	$900.00
Interest	590.52
Books	2,483.80
Periodicals and Newspapers	1,034.79
Book Binding	777.75
Advertising	135.62
Furniture and supplies	912.13
Sundries and petty cash	682.60

Water	150.00	
Gas	1,392.60	
Improvements and repairs	201.45	
Printing	61.50	
Sinking Fund, (10 per cent. of receipts)	1,737.86	
Salaries and commission on collections	4,242.99	
Premiums to Apprentices, Ninth Fair	312.80	
Treasurer, for amount due him, June, 1874	1,446.35	
		17,062.76
Balance in Treasury this date		$316.23

SINKING FUND.

RECEIPTS.

Balance on hand, May 31, 1874	$1,695.91
Ten per cent. of receipts for the year	1,737.86
Interest on balance	77.11
Total	$3,510.88

DISBURSEMENTS.

Personal taxes, 1874-5	$145.00	
Real Estate do. "	1,679.20	
Personal State taxes, 1874-5	64,90	
		1,889.10
Balance in Treasury this date		$1,621.78

SPECIAL LIFE MEMBERSHIP FUND.

Thirty-six Life Memberships to May 31, 1874	$1,800.00
Thirteen " " during the past year	650.00
Total	$2,450.00
Amount loaned General Fund	850.00
Balance in Treasury this date	$1,600.00

The Assets and Liabilities of this Society are as follows:

ASSETS.

Lot and Building, Post street		$120,000.00
Library		28,000.00
Fixtures and Furniture		6,000.00
Cash in Treasury—General Fund	$ 316.23	
" " " Sinking Fund	1,621.78	
" " " Special Fund	1,600.00	
" " hands of Librarian	89.56	
		3,627,57
Dues unpaid and collectable		400.00
Rents due and not paid		330.00
Total		$158,357.57

LIABILITIES.

Balance due on mortgage	$5,000.00	
Bills not paid	2,158.99	
		7,158.99
Net assets		$151,198.58

The average monthly revenue and disbursements for the past year were as follows:

REVENUE.

From rents	$705.37
" dues, etc.	742.88
Total,	$1,448.25

DISBURSEMENTS.

Current expenses	$1,301.37
Balance	$146.88

The balance has enabled the Trustees to make good their long overdue indebtedness to the Treasurer.

In conclusion, I think we may be grateful for whatever prosperity we enjoy; and although the progress of the Society has not been rapid, or marked by any sudden improvement or awakened interest, it is nevertheless, on the whole, healthy, and I believe permanent; and unless some serious and unforeseen misfortune should be met with, the Mechanics' Institute will continue to rank among the leading institutions of San Francisco; and it is with a grateful feeling of pleasure that I renew my acknowledgments for the kindness and courtesy shown me by the members and all connected with the Society.

A. S. HALLIDIE, PRESIDENT.

Tenth Industrial Exhibition

OF THE

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE,

SAN FRANCISCO, 1875,

The Exhibition will open August 17th. Premiums of Gold and Silver Medals, Diplomas and Certificates of Merit will be awarded.

In order to secure space, application should be made on or before July 20th.

Information regarding the Exhibition can be obtained by applying personally, or by letter, to the Secretary, 27 Post Street.

The Pavilion will be open for the reception of goods, Monday, August 2d.

No charge is made for space or steam power.

OFFICERS.

President,	A. S. HALLIDIE
Vice-President,	P. B. CORNWALL
Treasurer,	HENRY L. DAVIS
Secretary,	J. H. CULVER
Corresponding Secretary,	JAMES SPIERS
Superintendent,	J. H. GILMORE

J. C. PATRICK,
GEORGE SPAULDING,
R. B. WOODWARD,
D. E. HAYES.
H. S. SMITH.

ASA R. WELLS,
CHARLES ELLIOT,
W. P. STOUT,
JEREMIAH BROWNING,
J. H. STOUTENBOROUGH.